

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, IRELAND.

COPY OF COMMISSION for inquiring respecting the State of RELIGIOUS
and other INSTRUCTION now existing in Ireland.

WILLIAM THE FOURTH, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith: To Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor *Henry Lord Brougham and Vaux*, Our Lord High Chancellor of that part of Our said United Kingdom called *Great Britain*, Our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Councillor *William Viscount Melbourne*, one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor *Edward John Littleton*, Chief Secretary to Our Lieutenant-General and Governor-General of Ireland, and Our trusty and well-beloved *Thomas D'Oyley*, Serjeant at Law, *Thomas N—— Lister*, *John Wrottesley*, *George Barrett Lennox*, *Edward Carleton Tufnell*, *Daniel Maude*, *George Cornwall Lewis*, *William Henry Curran*, *William Tighe Hamilton*, *Acheson Lyle*, and *William Newport*, Esquires, Barristers at Law, Greeting: WHEREAS We have thought it expedient, for divers good causes and considerations Us thereunto moving, that a full and correct Inquiry should be forthwith made respecting the state of Religious and other Instruction, and the means of affording the same, now existing in that part of Our said United Kingdom called *Ireland*, and other circumstances connected therewith: Know ye, That We reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, ability and discretion, have authorized and appointed, and by these Presents do authorize and appoint you the said *Henry Lord Brougham and Vaux*, *William Viscount Melbourne*, *Edward John Littleton*, *Thomas D'Oyley*, *Thomas N—— Lister*, *John Wrottesley*, *George Barrett Lennox*, *Edward Carleton Tufnell*, *Daniel Maude*, *George Cornwall Lewis*, *William Henry Curran*, *William Tighe Hamilton*, *Acheson Lyle*, and *William Newport*, or any two or more of you, to visit every Parish in that part of Our said United Kingdom called *Ireland*, and to ascertain on the spot, by the best evidences which you can procure there or elsewhere, the number of Members of, or Persons in communion with, the United Church of England and Ireland in each Benefice or Parish, distinguishing in the cases of such Benefices as comprise more than one Parish the number belonging to each Parish separately and to the Union collectively, and also to state the distances of the Parishes in each Union from each other respectively: To state the number and rank of the Ministers belonging to or officiating within each Benefice, whether Rector, Vicar or Curate, and whether resident or non-resident, and whether there is a Church or Glebe-house thereon: To state the periods at which Divine Service is performed in each Parish Church or Chapel, and the average number of Persons usually attending the service in each, and to state generally whether those numbers have been for the last five years increasing, stationary, or diminishing: To ascertain the number of the several other Places of Worship belong to Roman Catholics or Presbyterians, and other Protestant Dissenters, and the number of Ministers officiating in each, the proportion of the Population of each Parish belonging to each of such Persuasions respectively, the periods at which Divine Service is performed in each of their Chapels, and the average number of Persons usually attending the Service in each, and to state generally whether those numbers have been for the last five years increasing, stationary, or diminishing: To ascertain the state of each Parish, with reference to the means of Education, the number and description of Schools, the kind of Instruction afforded therein, the average Attendance at each, and the sources from which they are supported, and to state generally whether the numbers attending the same have for the last five years been increasing, stationary, or diminishing: To inquire generally whether adequate provision is now made for the Religious Instruction and for the general Education of the People of Ireland: And to report such other circumstances connected with the Moral and Political Relations

of the Church Establishment and the Religious Institutions of other Denominations dissenting from the Established Church, as may bring clearly into view their hearings on the general condition of the People of that part of our said United Kingdom called *Ireland*: And for the better discovery of the truth in the premises, We do by these Presents give and grant to you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to call before you, or any two or more of you, such Persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you may be better informed of the truth in the premises, and to inquire of the premises, and every part thereof, by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever: And We do hereby give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority, when the same shall appear to be requisite, to administer an Oath or Oaths to any Person or Persons whatsoever to be examined before you, or any two or more of you, touching or concerning the premises: And We do also give and grant unto you, or any two or more of you, full power and authority to cause all and singular the Ministers and others attached to or connected with the said Parishes or Benefices, having in their custody any rolls, records, orders, books, papers or other writings relating thereto, to bring and produce the same upon Oath, before you or any two or more of you: And Our farther will and pleasure is, That you, or any two or more of you, upon due examination of the premises, do and shall, as often as you, or any two or more of you shall finish inquiring of any Parish, report to Us, under your hands and seals respectively, what you shall find touching or concerning the premises upon such Inquiry as aforesaid: And We further will and command, and by these Presents ordain, That this our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our Commissioners, or any two or more of you, shall and may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment: And We do hereby direct and appoint, That you, or any two or more of you, may have liberty to report to Us your several proceedings from time to time, as the same shall be respectively completed and perfected: And We hereby command all and singular Our Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Mayors, Bailiffs, Constables, Officers, Ministers, and all others our loving Subjects whatsoever, as well within Liberties as without, that they be assistant to you and each of you, in the execution of these Presents: And We do hereby appoint our trusty and well-beloved *Matthew Barrington*, Esquire, to be your Secretary: And We do further authorize and empower you, or any two or more of you, to nominate and appoint Four Clerks for your aid in executing this Commission. In witness whereof, We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.—Witness Ourselves at *Westminster*, the Fourth day of June in the Fourth year of Our reign.

By THE KING HIMSELF,

BATHURST.


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(*Mr. Goulburn*)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
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